

2 Kings 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron?

Analysis

But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron?

This verse contributes to the overall theme of chapter 1: Divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority. The divine name emphasizes Yahweh's covenant relationship with Israel and His sovereign control over historical events. The reference to kingship reminds readers that all human authority is subordinate to God's ultimate kingship. The prophetic ministry served as God's primary means of covenant enforcement, calling both kings and people to faithfulness. During this period, Israel and Judah struggled with persistent idolatry, particularly Baal worship introduced under Ahab and Jezebel.

The narrative demonstrates God's justice in judging covenant unfaithfulness while maintaining His ultimate purposes for redemption.

Historical Context

Historical Setting: 2 Kings 1 takes place during the mid-9th century BCE, around 850 BCE, during the transition from Elijah to Elisha. The chapter's theme (Ahaziah's Illness and Elijah's Final Confrontations) reflects the historical reality of prophetic succession and divine affirmation of Elisha's ministry following Elijah's remarkable translation. Archaeological evidence from this period includes royal inscriptions, administrative documents, and material culture that corroborate the biblical account while providing additional context for understanding the political and social dynamics at work.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to understanding the theological message of 2 Kings 1 regarding divine judgment on apostasy and affirmation of prophetic authority?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's character, particularly His justice, mercy, and faithfulness to covenant promises?
3. In what practical ways should this text shape contemporary Christian thinking about faithfulness, worship, and obedience to God?

Interlinear Text

בְּמֹבֵל וְאֶלְהָם יִדְבֶּר שְׁמָר זָן מֶלֶךְ יְהוָה לְקֹבֵר אֶת

to meet **But the angel** **of the king** **of Samaria** **and say** H413 H1097

H7125 H4397 H4428 H8111 H1696

אֵין	אֱלֹהִים	בִּשְׁרָאֵל	אַתֶּם	אַתֶּם	הַלְכִים	לְדַרְשָׁנָה	בְּבָבָלָן
H369	the god	in Israel	H859	that ye go	to enquire		H0
H430	H3478		H1980		H1875		

אֱלֹהִים	בָּעֵד	בָּעֵד
of Baalzebub	the god	of Ekron

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 17:1 (References God): And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

Jonah 2:8 (Parallel theme): They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

Psalms 76:1 (References God): In Judah is God known; his name is great in Israel.

Acts 8:26 (Resurrection): And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

Mark 3:22 (Parallel theme): And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

2 Kings 5:15 (References God): And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that

there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org